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Council Member Ernest Y. Martin, Chair & Presiding Officer
Council Member Ikaika Anderson, Vice Chair
City Council, City & County of Honolulu
Honolulu Hale, Honolulu, Hawaii

HEARING Wednesday, April 25, 2012
10:00 am
City Council Chamber

RE: Bill 10 (2012), CD1, Proposed FD1 Relating to the Use of Bags Provided to Customers

Chair Martin, Vice Chair Anderson, and Members of the Honolulu City Council:

Retail Merchants of Hawaii (RMH) is a not-for-profit trade organization representing 200 members and over 2,000 storefronts, and is committed to support the retail industry and business in general in Hawaii. In 2011, retail generated \$27.8 billion in sales and paid over \$1 billion in GET. The retail industry is one of the largest employers in the state, employing 25% of the labor force.

RMH sincerely appreciates the willingness of the Chair and Council Members to work with the stakeholders to craft a bill that offers manageable options for retailers and our customers while assuring protections for our environment.

Council Member Garcia's proposal is a model that RMH has supported in the legislature; however, we understand that there potentially are legal challenges to the fee assessment on the County-level, and therefore are unable to support this draft.

Chair Martin's and Council Member Gabbard's proposal is preferred. It permits retailers to provide environmentally-friendly, cost-effective choices for our customers without the imposition of administrative burden on business to implement. We respectfully request your consideration of Version B, with effective date of July 1, 2015 which will allow both retailers and our suppliers sufficient time to exhaust existing inventories and transition to bags permitted by this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Carol Pregill, President

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